

## **REMARKS**

### **Interview Summary**

On July 7, 2008, Applicants' representatives, Michael Glenn and Elizabeth Ruzich, conducted a teleconference with Examiner Ludlow. Applicants thank the Examiner for her time. During the interview, Applicants' representatives and the Examiner discussed a proposed claim amendment and Hiroswa.

### **35 USC 112**

The Examiner rejects Claim 58 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. Applicants cancel Claim 58. Thus, the rejection is moot.

The Examiner rejects Claims 39-58 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph for failing to clearly recite that the pressure generator applies pressure to the buffer medium which in turn applies pressure to the ends of the liquid columns causing simultaneous ejection of microdroplets through the nozzle orifices as described by Applicants in the Remarks filed January 23, 2008. Applicants amend Claim 39 to clearly recite these features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

### **35 USC 102(b)**

Claims 39, 43-46, 48, and 52-56 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hiroswa (U.S. Patent No. 5,682,190).

Applicants amend independent Claim 39 to recite that the pressure generator applies a pressure to the buffer medium which in turn applies pressure to the ends of the liquid columns causing simultaneous ejection of microdroplets through the nozzle of orifices onto the substrate.

Hirosawa teaches an ink jet head having a plurality of liquid paths 102 communicating with ejection outlets 101 and a common liquid chamber 104, see column 9, lines 30 to 44 of Hirotsawa and Figs. 4A, 4B thereof. An ejection heater 103 is arranged in each of the liquid paths 102. In operation, thermal energy is generated by the ejection heaters 103, causing the ink in the liquid path 102 to be heated, whereby ink droplets are ejected from a number of ejection outlets 101. See column 10, lines 11-22 of Hirotsawa. The generated heat is then applied to ink in the liquid path to generate the pressure required for ink ejection, and subsequently, ink is ejected from the ink ejection outlet so as to allow ink droplets to be shot onto the recording material, see column 1, lines 40 to 46 of Hirotsawa.

Hirotsawa does not teach or disclose a buffer medium that applies pressure to the ends of the liquid columns because the pressure is in the direction from the liquid path 102 through the common liquid chamber 104 to the air chamber 7. Accordingly, the pressure applied to the buffer medium, i.e., the air in the air chamber 7, is clearly not the cause of ink ejection through the ejection outlets 101. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Because Claims 43-46, 48, and 52-56 depend upon Claim 39, they are patentable for at least the same reasons.

### CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully posit that the pending claims have been distinguished from the art of record, and that all rejections of the claims have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all claims. The Examiner is invited to please contact Applicants' attorney at 650-474-8400 should any questions arise.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Ruzich", written in a cursive style.

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